



## *Epiphany Sunday*

**Welcome** as we join in worshiping God on this Epiphany Sunday! Jesus, light of the world, has come and shed light on our journey. We are radiant in the light of his love and grace as we reflect that light out, into the world through our thoughts, our words and our lives.

### GATHERING TO WORSHIP

**Prelude** *We Three Kings* ~John Hopkins, arr. Bill Wolaver Renae Peters

**Welcome** Pastor Caleb Yoder

### Opportunities for Celebration and Service

#### Call to Worship and Invocation

*Adapted from Isaiah 60:4-6; Psalm 72:12*

Leader: Lift up your eyes and look around:

**People: God delivers the needy when they call.**

Leader: Let your hearts thrill and rejoice:

**People: God will deliver the poor and those who have no helper.**

Leader: The nations will bring gold and frankincense before the Lord.

**People: We shall see and be radiant,**

**All: and we will proclaim the praise of the Lord!**

#### Lighting of the Christ Candle

**Song** *Hope is a Candle*

STS 15

*Christ is the light that the prophets awaited, Christ is the lion, the lamb, and the child.  
Christ is the love and the mystery and laughter – candles make way! Christ is the day.*

We light the Christ candle: *Christ* in our hearts, *Christ* in our homes, *Christ* in our world.  
**May the light of Christ shine through our lives.**

#### Peace Prayer

Carson Sterk

#### Hymn of Praise

*Morning Star, O cheering sight!*

HWB 214

Morning Star, O cheering sight!  
Ere thou cam'st  
how dark earth's night! (x2)  
Jesus mine, in me shine;  
in me shine, Jesus mine.  
Fill my heart with light divine.

Morning Star, thy glory bright  
far excels the sun's clear light.  
(x2)  
Jesus be, constantly,  
constantly, Jesus be  
more than thousand suns to me.

Thy glad beams, thou Morning  
Star, / cheer the nations near  
and far. (x2)  
Thee we own, Lord alone,  
Lord alone, thee we own  
our great Savior, God's dear Son.

#### Children's Story

Laura Unrau

#### Morning Prayer

Pastor Lois Harder

**Epiphany Hymn**

Bright and glorious is the sky,  
 radiant are the heavens high  
 where the golden star is shining,  
 all its rays to earth inclining,  
 leading to the newborn King,  
 leading to the newborn King..

*Bright and glorious is the sky*

Sages from the East afar,  
 when they saw this wondrous  
 star, / went to the find the King  
 of nations,  
 and to offer their oblations  
 unto Him as Lord and King,  
 unto Him as Lord and King.

HWB 219

As a star, God's holy word  
 leads us to our King and Lord;  
 Brightly from its sacred pages  
 Shall this light throughout the  
 ages  
 shine upon our path of life,  
 shine upon our path of life.

**Worship With Our Tithes and Offerings**

First Fruits Giving

**\*Prayer of dedication**

Pastor Lois

**Worship Music***O Holy Night* ~Adolphe Adam

Lois Harder, soloist and Renae Peters, piano

O holy night!  
 The stars are brightly shining  
 It is the night  
 of our dear Savior's birth  
 Long lay the world  
 in sin and error pining  
 'Til he appeared  
 and the soul felt its worth.  
 A thrill of hope  
 the weary world rejoices,  
 For yonder breaks  
 a new and glorious morn.  
 Fall on your knees;  
 O hear the angel voices!  
 O night divine,  
 O night when Christ was born  
 O night, O holy night,  
 O night divine!

Led by the light  
 of Faith serenely beaming  
 With glowing hearts  
 by his cradle we stand  
 So led by light  
 of a star sweetly gleaming  
 Here come the  
 Wise Men from Orient land  
 The King of kings  
 lay thus in lowly manger  
 In all our trials  
 born to be our friend  
 He knows our need,  
 to our weakness is no stranger  
 Behold your King;  
 before Him lowly bend  
 Behold your King;  
 before Him lowly bend

Truly He taught us  
 to love one another;  
 His law is love and  
 his gospel is peace.  
 Chains shall he break,  
 for the slave is our brother  
 And in his name,  
 all oppression shall cease  
 Sweet hymns of joy  
 in grateful chorus raise we  
 Let all within us  
 praise his holy name  
 Christ is the Lord;  
 O praise his name forever!  
 His power and glory  
 evermore proclaim  
 His power and glory  
 evermore proclaim

**HEARING GOD'S WORD****Monologue**

Tim Goertzen

**Scripture Reading**

Ephesians 3:1-12

**Message**

"The mystery of Christ"

Pastor Caleb

**SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE****Song of Response***Longing for Light*

SWJ 89

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
 Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
 Make us your own, your holy people,  
 light for the world to see.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
 Longing for hope, many despair.  
 Your word alone has pow'r to save us.  
 Make us your living voice.

**Chorus**

Christ, be our light!  
 Shine in our hearts.  
 Shine through the darkness.  
 Christ, be our light!  
 Shine in your church gathered today.

Many the gifts, many the people,  
 many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
 Let us be servants to one another,  
 making your kingdom come.

**Benediction**

Pastor Caleb

**Postlude***People, Look East* ~ Eleanor Farjeon, arr. Thomas Keesecker

Renae Peters

+ The peace lamp serves as a visual reminder for us that we follow Jesus the Prince of Peace and believe in uncertain times that God's shalom will prevail.

This service made use of resources and ideas from *Leader* (MennoMedia), Fall 2020

Special thanks to Jason and Renae Peters, Laura Unrau, LaNae Unruh (visual arts), Carson Sterk, Steve Unruh, Delton Voth, and the AMC Covid Task Force.

### **Questions for Reflection** – Ephesians 3:1-12

1. What do you think it looks like for the “manifold wisdom of God” to be made known to the powers through the Church? How does that happen?
2. How do we wrap our minds around what a new revelation it was for the first Christians to understand that God was creating a people out of all nations?

**Next Sunday** we begin a two-Sunday focus on the book of Amos. The scripture reading for next week will be from Amos 5:8-14, 18-24.

## *Praying for our congregation and beyond*

- ❖ We thank God for 2020; for the challenges that have been met and the creativity that has been shown in inventing and learning new ways of doing things, for the ways people have risen to the occasions of caring for one another, helping family and strangers alike in some cases, showing generosity, compassion and mercy.
- ❖ We also offer to God the grief and pain experienced in 2020; for the thousands of deaths caused by the Covid-19 virus and complications from it, for the inhumane ways that people sometimes treated one another, for the deep losses experienced by so many.
- ❖ We look to 2021 with hope and anticipation as we follow the Light that is Jesus into this new year. We pray for grace and wisdom, for patience and for humility as we move forward together into these unknown times.
- ❖ We pray for those feeling isolation in this season and are in need of more human contact.
- ❖ We pray for members of our sister church Luz del Evangelio who have family members that are sick with Covid, including Pastor Juan's daughter.
- ❖ We pray for Joyce and Dan Bergen as Joyce faces treatment for stage 4 lung cancer. We ask for your gentle hand of healing and comfort, O God, for Joyce and Dan and their family.
- ❖ We pray for Brian Burkholder as he grieves the passing of his mother on Tuesday, December 29 in Edmonton, Canada. Due to Covid restrictions Brian and his family have not been able to visit his mom in-person. We pray for God's presence and mercy in this time of loss at a distance for the Burkholder family.
- ❖ We pray for Don and June Hiebert as they both continue to recover from Covid-19 and other complications. June is convalescing at home while Don remains in the Newton Medical Center.
- ❖ We pray for Pastor Caleb's mother, Gloria Yoder, as she remains hospitalized for Covid-19 in Iowa City, IA. We also remember Galen, Caleb's dad, as well as Caleb's three sisters.
- ❖ We continue to pray for Mary Lou Unrau as she does rehab, recovering from a broken bone in her left leg, and as she and Glen plan for the next steps.

1304 K-15 Hwy, Box 8  
Goessel Kansas 67053  
Office: (620) 367-8192  
email: [alexmenno@mtelco.net](mailto:alexmenno@mtelco.net)  
website:  
[www.alexanderwohl.org](http://www.alexanderwohl.org)

**Pastors:**  
Caleb Yoder  
(319) 930-7754  
[alexcaleb@mtelco.net](mailto:alexcaleb@mtelco.net)  
  
Lois Harder  
(316) 617-3497  
[alexlois@mtelco.net](mailto:alexlois@mtelco.net)

**Deacons:**  
Sandy Banman  
Marilyn Unruh Flaming  
Ruth Goertzen  
Cindy Hastings  
Bryant Miller  
Jim Schmidt

If you would appreciate a porch visit or phone call from one of the pastors or deacons, please feel free to contact us!

### Coming Events

Today, Sunday, January 3	10:00 am	Worship Service via Zoom
Monday, January 4	4:30 pm	Covid Taskforce meeting
	5:45 pm	Board of Mission and Service
Wednesday, January 6	7:00 pm	Board of Trustees
Sunday, January 10	10:00 am	Worship Service via Zoom
Monday, January 11	7:00 pm	Church Council
Sunday, January 31	1:00 pm	Annual meeting on Zoom

**As you have changes for the 2021 Yearbook** (addresses/cell or land line phone numbers/email addresses, etc.) turn them in to the church office. All changes are due **January 29, 2021**. This includes new board positions for the coming year.

**Current and upcoming devotionals** (*Upper Room & Rejoice!*) are available in the NE entryway for purchase.

## CONFERENCE PRAYER REQUESTS

### Western District Conference

Pray for God's strength and peace for pastors in WDC, as they look ahead to ministry in the coming year.

### Mennonite Mission Network

Mike Sherrill, Mennonite Mission Network's executive director, begins each week with an all-staff worship and prayer time. During this time, he prays for each one of Mission Network's employees by name. Ask for God's wisdom and strength for Mike as he leads the church in mission.

## COMMUNITY & CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Camp Mennoscah

**Camp Mennoscah is a wonderful space for families and groups needing space to spread out!** Facilities for differently sized groups are available with a variety of gathering areas. Trails and fields are waiting to be hiked and used for fun activities, too! Contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290 or [office@campmennoscah.org](mailto:office@campmennoscah.org) to reserve. You are invited to enjoy this sacred space!

**Thank you, Allen and Janet!** After 40 years of dedicated service as program directors at Camp Mennoscah, Allen Jantz and Janet McGillivray are retiring. We know them in part for their wonderfully caring and carefully planned camp week and for Allen's lunchtime skits and Janet's lanyard-making. We celebrate these years shared with Camp Mennoscah and wish them the best in new adventures! See you at Camp Mennoscah again soon, Allen and Janet!

**Applications for Camp Mennoscah Summer Staff positions are now being accepted!** Although there is a chance positions will change to meet the needs of pandemic-impacted summer youth camps, the current summer staff leadership positions are naturalist, crafts leader, lifeguard, grounds/maintenance, music leader, office, and all-round/media. For those 21 years old or older, there is also a Director of Support opening. Find the application and information online at [www.campmennoscah.org](http://www.campmennoscah.org) under Summer Youth Camps!

### Mennonite Church USA

SOOP (Service Opportunities with our Partners) is accepting applications! Use your gifts and skills to work alongside others in a network of ministries across the church. This program is flexibly designed for retirees, families and adults over 25. Visit [MennoniteMission.net/SOOP](http://MennoniteMission.net/SOOP) to learn more!

### Western District Conference

**We invite you to share a gift with WDC during this season** to help our congregations **Witness & invite** others to faith in Jesus Christ, **Dwell** in just & loving relationships, and **Connect** to God's mission in the world. Your generous gifts are appreciated as we look toward our fiscal year end on January 31 and meeting our budget goal! You may make an online contribution **HERE** or send a check to Western District Conference, PO Box 306, North Newton KS 67117. Thank you for your generosity!

**The WDC office and Resource Library remains closed due to Covid-19 precautions, and staff members are working from their homes.** Note that staff will take holiday and vacation time December 24 through January 3, 2021, and will be available beginning January 4.

**Save the date:** WDC Annual Assembly will be July 30-Aug 1, 2021, in a hybrid model with the possibility of both virtual and in-person activities. More information to come!

## **Bethel College**

**Kauffman Museum at Bethel College is partnering with Humanities Kansas to host the Smithsonian traveling exhibit “Crossroads: Change in Rural America” through Jan. 17.** Accompanying it is a local companion exhibit, “Of Land and People: Our Community at the Crossroads,” created from the museum’s permanent exhibit “Of Land and People.” **The museum is open 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Tues.-Fri; 1:30-4:30 p.m., Sat.-Sunday; and closed Mondays.** Admission to the “Crossroads” exhibit is free on Saturdays.

**Sun., Jan. 10, 3 p.m. – [Florence Schloneger, North Newton, and Pauline Sharp](#), Wichita, will give a virtual presentation**, sharing their family stories related to land ownership, economics, education and identity. This is in connection with the Kauffman Museum special exhibit “Crossroads: Change in Rural America.” Schloneger’s ancestors immigrated to Kansas in the 1800s while Sharp’s relatives, members of the Kanza tribe, lived in central Kansas for centuries before the arrival of Europeans. Schloneger is a retired Mennonite minister. Sharp is a Kaw tribal member and board member of the Kanza Heritage Society. [Sign up for the Zoom link at <https://kauffmanmuseum.org/event/sunday-afternoon-at-the-museum-with-florence-schloneger-and-pauline-sharp/>](#) **The event will also be on Facebook Live.**

**Mon., Jan. 18, 6:30 p.m. – Bethel College’s annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration will feature spoken word artist M’Yvonne Payne and former pro athlete and motivational speaker Chris Singleton.** The event will be held in *Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center*, with COVID protocols in place, and will also be live-streamed via YouTube at [bit.ly/bethelks-mlk2021](http://bit.ly/bethelks-mlk2021) Sponsors are the Bethel College Diversity Council, Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and Student Life Office, with support from the Bethel College Women’s Association.

## **Mennonite Church USA**

**Looking for a non-traditional pastoral role?** Become a unit leader for Service Adventure, a gap-year program for ages 17-20 from Mennonite Mission Network. Unit leaders, who are at least 24 years of age, serve as mentors to the young adults in the Service Adventure household. Learn more by contacting [SusanN@MennoniteMission.net](mailto:SusanN@MennoniteMission.net).

**Mennonite Voluntary Service is accepting applications for the 2021-2022 service term.** Serve, learn and grow in faith with a community of your peers! Visit [MennoniteMission.net/MVS](http://MennoniteMission.net/MVS) to learn more!

## **Mennonite Central Committee**

**Canner Operator** : MCC is looking for new canner operators! This two-year service term is unique and offers the opportunity to travel around the U.S. and Canada, working as a team while meeting new people! Check out [mcc.org/canning](http://mcc.org/canning) for details!

**MCC Comforter Blitz update:** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 Kansas Friends of MCC Comforter Blitz in Yoder, KS has been canceled. However, the Blitz committee still has a goal of collecting at least 300 comforters between February and April. We need your help to meet this goal! Fabric kits and comforter sets to tie (top, back, and batting) are available to check out from MCC in North Newton. For contactless drop-off of completed comforters the 24-hour donation room is always available. To arrange drop-off or checkout materials, contact Kate at [katemast@mcc.org](mailto:katemast@mcc.org), or 316.804.8432.